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Dripping Springs Century News

35th Year, No. 9

March 5, 2026

drippingspringsnews.com

75 Cents

Community Calendar

Amplify Austin Day
Mar 4 - 5 • 6 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Central Texans are invited to participate in this year's Amplify Austin Day, a communitywide giving event. The event will kick off at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, and conclude at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 5. Numerous Dripping Springs organizations are participating. To learn more, visit AmplifyATX.org.

2nd Annual Kite Fest
Mar 7 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
The City of Dripping Springs is hosting its 2nd Annual Kite Fest. Participants can bring their own kite or just come enjoy the view at this free event for all ages. Founders Memorial Park • 419b Founders Park Rd • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

7th Annual Clay Shoot
March 7 • 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hill Country Rally for Kids is holding its annual clay shoot, and this year's beneficiary is Foster Village. Participants are invited to Hog Heaven Sporting Club for a day of connection, friendly competition, and meaningful impact - raising critical support for vulnerable

SEE **CALENDAR**
ON PAGE 7



THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE

Inspirational Quote of the Day

"LIBERTY MEANS RESPONSIBILITY. THAT IS WHY MOST PEOPLE DREAD IT"
- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



DSISD declines to implement daily prayer period in schools

Laurie Anderson
Editor

Last week, Dripping Springs ISD became the latest area school district to decline to implement Senate Bill 11 (SB 11), also known as the "Protecting the

Freedom to Pray in Schools" act. SB 11 allows public schools and charter schools to provide a daily prayer period for students and employees, during which they could pray or read religious texts. The Dripping

Springs ISD Board of Trustees heard public comments on the issue during its Feb. 23 meeting. Five individuals addressed the board, all asking that the district not adopt the optional measure. Kathy Thomas intro-

duced herself as a tax-paying community member and parent of a 2019 Dripping Springs High School graduate. She said in her family, they taught faith at home and in church. "Having grown up in

a town where most of the people were actually a different denomination, I got the pressure that I needed to be a different religion," Thomas said. "It got so bad, my mother had to go to the school board

SEE **DSISD** ON PAGE 6



Daryl Howard talks to studio visitors about her art, which is created with a Japanese woodblock printmaking technique.

PHOTOS BY DAVE WILSON

AN OPEN-DOOR INVITATION

Local creatives participate in West of Weird Art Tour

Laurie Anderson
Editor

Artists from around the Dripping Springs area opened their doors this past weekend for the second annual West of Weird Art Tour, sponsored by the Dripping Springs Art League (DSAL). Nearly 40 different artists participated in the event, which invited members of the community to visit their stores or private studios.

"The artists appreciated the connection and sharing with art admirers and buyers alike," DSAL president Steve Friedman said. "The tour continues to grow as word spreads around the region."

Artist Lari Rogge, from Goat of Many Colors, was participating for the second year in a row. She's a retired educator and longtime quilter who decided to branch out into wearable art forms.

"I started weaving almost three years ago, taking lessons with Kathy Utts at the Wimberley Valley Sayori," Rogge said. "Then I decided I wanted to incorporate this into bag making. I like to use pieces for pockets or sides or different things. I love leather, so I kind of put it together."

Rogge said she loves weaving because it's so much quicker than quilting, and then you get to make things out of it, which is its own challenge. She said no two pieces are ever



Lari Rogge of "A Goat of Many Colors" stands among her leather and woven textile bags in her studio.

alike, even with the same pattern and colors, because each piece reflects how she felt when she was weaving.

"I love color and texture and the opportunity to use lots of different fibers and yarns together to make something," Rogge said. "I like getting a whole big crayon box, essentially, of colors together and going to town with it."

Goat of Many Colors isn't usually open to the public, but her bags are available on her website. Rogge said she is also happy to open up for people upon request.

"I'm out here most every day during the week working in my studio," Rogge said. "Having been in education, I like to teach, I love to talk to people, and I'm happy to have

people come over."

Winehouse on Old Fitzhugh Road was also a stop on the West of Weird Art Tour this year, and artist Devon Austin was exhibiting her wares there.

Austin started doing photography when she was 17 years old, and kept it up as a hobby during a 47-year career with a school district. She traveled a lot, and many of her shots are from South Africa, Thailand, Germany, Japan, Spain, Portugal and other places.

"Two summers ago, I found a box of five thousand slides that I had taken," Devon said. "I just looked at one and then went through all of them, and I said, you know what, I need to do this again."

So she started com-
SEE **ART** ON PAGE 6



Master gardeners prepare for a plant sale.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Master Gardeners to host Spring Plant and Tree Sale

Laurie Anderson
Editor

Temperatures are warming up, and for area gardeners, that means it's time to think about spring planting. The Hays County Master Gardeners Association (HCMGA) is ready to help area residents dig in at its annual Spring Plant and Tree Sale. Vegetables and herbs will be avail-

able, in addition to a wide variety of ornamental trees, ground covers, grasses, perennials, shrubs, and succulents. Many of the plants are propagated from the Master Gardeners' own cuttings and seeds.

Gardeners can shop the in-person sale on March 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Budaful Farmers Market, 204 San Antonio St.

SEE **SALE** ON PAGE 3

Hays Co. Corrections Officer Arrested for Sexual Assault

Laurie Anderson
Editor

A Hays County Corrections Officer, Miguel Simpson, has been arrested for Sexual Assault. The Hays County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) was formally notified of the arrest on Feb. 26 by the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office (GCSO).

The arrest stems from an alleged assault that took place in New Braunfels on Feb. 1, and was reported by the victim on Feb. 3.

HCSO is conducting an ongoing administrative investigation concurrent with the criminal investigation. The Hays County Sheriff's Office said it holds its personnel to the highest standards, and remains committed to transparency, accountability, and public trust.

The GCSO will be the lead agency in the

criminal investigation. Guadalupe County Sheriff Joshua Ray said his office will continue to aggressively pursue those who prey on vulnerable victims.

"If the message hasn't been clear before, let it be clear now: this will not be tolerated in Guadalupe County," Ray said.

Ray commended investigators for their exceptional work and unwavering commitment to justice for crime victims.

"I also want to thank Sheriff Hipolito and the Hays County Sheriff's Office for their assistance and cooperation throughout the investigation," Ray said.

Anyone with information related to the case is encouraged to contact the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office at 830-379-1224. Anonymous tips can be called in at 877-403-TIPS.

Capital Highlights

Texans urged to heed travel warnings about Mexico



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

Texans planning to travel to Mexico or currently visiting there are urged to closely follow warnings from the U.S. Department of State, which advises U.S. citizens to not travel to the states of Colima, Guerrero, Michoacan, Sinaloa and Tamaulipas. Travelers to other states in Mexico are urged to either reconsider or at least exercise increased caution. This comes after violence broke out in Jalisco following the death of a cartel leader in a gunfight with Mexican authorities.

Gov. Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to increase security along the border region.

“Mexican drug cartels pose a significant threat to public safety and national security,” Abbott said. “By increasing proactive efforts to defend against cartel violence, Texas will continue to utilize every tool and strategy to protect our state and our nation. We will not cower to criminals who impose terror on

our fellow Texans and Americans.”

Texans in need of immediate assistance can call the U.S. Department of State (from outside the U.S.: 1-202-501-4444; from inside the U.S.: 1-888-407-4747) or the Texas Fusion Center (1-844-927-0521).

Patrick seeks to block Camp Mystic’s reopening

Texas should not renew the license for Camp Mystic this summer until necessary changes are made to ensure more lives aren’t lost in a flood, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wrote in a letter to the state health commissioner, according to the Texas Standard.

“It would be naive to allow Camp Mystic to return to normal operations before all of the facts are known,” Patrick wrote to Department of State Health Services Commissioner Jennifer Shuford. “Camp Mystic should have decided on their own to suspend operations this coming summer, but it appears they are planning for camp in 2026 and will likely be seeking your approval to operate with a renewed license.”

Flooding last July 4 killed 25 campers, two counselors and the camp’s executive director.

Parents of some of the campers who died

have sued Shuford and other DSHS officials, claiming the state failed to follow Texas law when licensing the camp without ensuring it had adequate evacuation plans. In the months following the flood, Camp Mystic has announced plans to reopen its Cypress Lake property, which it says is independent from the older Guadalupe River location where the girls died.

Wildfires popping up across the state

Dry conditions and brisk winds are fueling a rise in wildfires across the state. The Texas A&M Forest Service reported that forecast rain could lessen the wildfire risk in early March.

As of Sunday, the service reported two active wildfires: one in Orange County, in Southeast Texas, and the other in Schleicher County, in Central Texas. Most of the wildfires reported last week and now contained were in East Texas. Burn bans are in place in 184 of the state’s 254 counties.

Education board approves 4,200 curriculum corrections

The State Board of Education last week approved roughly 4,200 corrections and revisions to its elementary and secondary school curriculum, The Texas Tribune re-

ported. The cost of making the corrections and changes has not been determined, but it will come at taxpayer expense, since the Texas Education Agency developed the materials using state funding. A TEA official said the agency planned to determine the costs now that the changes and corrections have been approved. The vote was delayed in January.

The state has been using the Bluebonnet Learning curriculum since November 2024. When unveiled, it attracted national attention for its references to the Bible and Christianity.

Approximately 1 in 4 school districts have indicated that they are using at least some portions of the reading curriculum, covering about 400,000 students. The materials come with a \$60 per-student incentive for districts.

TEA spokesperson Jake Kobersky said not all the changes to Bluebonnet are to fix errors.

“Some updates are simply improvements based on teacher feedback,” Kobersky said. “Every change and/or edit made to the product must be submitted individually for SBOE approval, regardless of the nature of the change, hence the large number.”

New state park open after years of delays

The gates to the state’s newest park are now open. Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, located about 75 miles west of Fort Worth, consists of 4,871 acres of former ranchland, according to The Dallas Morning News. It marks the first time in more than 25 years that a new state park has opened in North Texas.

“I am proud of the dedication of our [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department] team but also the unwavering support of the Texas Legislature and the voters of Texas that have brought us to this moment,” Rodney Franklin, director of Texas state parks, said in a news release. “State park staff stand ready to welcome families far and wide to begin making memories at Texas’ newest state park.”

The park’s planned opening in 2023 was postponed by safety concerns during construction. It has more than 16 miles of trails, a 90-acre lake and both recreational vehicle and tent-camping sites.

The site was purchased by the parks department in 2011. Funding for its construction came from a combination of legislative appropriation, the Sporting Goods

Sales Tax, federal funding, and \$10 million in private philanthropy.

Four Texas counties report measles cases

Measles cases have been reported recently in four Texas counties: Frio, Bandera, Kendall and Lubbock. With five reported cases, Bandera had the most, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Lubbock was the center of last year’s outbreak when people from surrounding counties with measles came there for hospital care.

The current outbreak of measles has been centered around South Carolina. Last year, Texas led the nation with more than 800 cases, mostly in West Texas.

Measles is highly contagious, spread by airborne particles. It has a 90% infection rate among unvaccinated people who are exposed to someone with measles. It can cause people to also lose their immune protection against other diseases.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gbor-
ders@texaspress.com.

Cocaine found in vehicle during traffic stop on 1-35

Staff Reports

A Feb. 21 traffic stop on IH-35 in Kyle resulted in the discovery of 25 kilograms of cocaine concealed inside a vehicle.

The incident happened at about 4 p.m., when a deputy with the Hays County Sheriff’s Office (HCSO)

Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted a traffic stop near exit 215 northbound. The deputy’s investigation uncovered indicators of criminal activity, and an HCSO dual purpose canine was deployed. Following an alert to the presence of narcotics by the canine, a search of the ve-

hicle was conducted and the drugs were found.

The vehicle’s driver, an adult out of Starr County, TX, was arrested and charged with Manufacture/Delivery of Controlled Substance (Penalty Group 1), a first-degree felony. The seized cocaine has an estimated wholesale value of \$325,000. The incident remains under investigation and no additional details have been released at this time.

The Criminal Interdiction Unit is a specialized unit within the



The siezed cocaine rests near a patrol car.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HCSO that focuses on intercepting criminals in transit, primarily on

the major throughfares within Hays County such as IH-35, SH-21,

and US-290; the unit is a uniformed initiative that promotes public safety through traffic enforcement, and utilizes these encounters to detect criminal activity.

The Hays County Sheriff’s Office encourages community members to report narcotic activity by calling 512-393-7896. Those wishing to remain anonymous can also contact Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-324-8477 from anywhere in the U.S. or submitting information online via www.P3tips.com.

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Man receives 75-year sentence for continuous sex abuse of child

Staff Reports

The office of Hays County Criminal District Attorney Kelly Higgins announced today that 50-year-old Jaime Espericueta of Liberty Hill, Texas, was sentenced to 75 years in prison on Feb. 23.

On Nov. 24, 2025, a jury found Espericueta guilty of continuous sexual abuse of a child. The evidence at trial showed that Espericueta sexually

abused two different children over several years. Espericueta elected to have his punishment determined by the judge instead of a jury.

After the jury found Espericueta guilty of continuous sexual abuse of a child, the punishment hearing occurred on Feb. 23, 2026. At this hearing, a third victim testified that Espericueta had also abused her when she was a child. The State presented additional

evidence of the traumatic effects of sexual abuse. After hearing the evidence, Judge Alicia Key of the 483rd District Court of Hays County sentenced Espericueta to 75 years in prison. Under the law applicable to the case, the defendant is not eligible for parole.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant Criminal District Attorneys Elizabeth Schmidt and Miranda Ebersole.

“This was a case

where the defendant spent years hiding his crimes of sexual abuse, often hiding behind his own family members for protection,” Ebersole said. “The bravery of the survivors in this case to speak out about the abuse and stand up to the defendant in court was inspiring. This case is a warning to other abusers that even though years go by, we will still hold them accountable for the abuse they inflict on children.”



Nora Gillum will compete at the state History Day Contest on April 11.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local 8th grader captures third regional title in History Day Contest, advances to state meet

Staff Reports

Nora Gillum, an eighth-grade student at Dripping Springs High School, captured her third straight title at the Cen-Tex Regional History Day Contest on Saturday, Feb. 21, at St. Edward’s University in Austin.

A two-time defending Texas History Day champion, Gillum placed first in the Junior Division Individual Website category for her project, “*The King’s Revolutions: Rethinking the Historical Significance of Elvis Presley in 1950s America.*” Her

website explores the 2026 National History Day theme, “Revolution, Reaction, Reform.”

With the regional victory, Gillum advances to compete at the Texas History Day Contest on Saturday, April 11, in Austin.

National History Day® (NHD) is a non-profit education organization that offers year-long academic programs that engage more than 500,000 middle- and high-school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest.

30 DSHS students qualify for UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest

Staff Reports

More than 30 Dripping Springs High School band students have qualified for the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest after performing a Class I selection—the most challenging level—from memory and earning the highest rating at the Region 18 Solo and Ensemble Contest, held Saturday, Feb. 21 at Hays High School in Kyle.

Fifteen soloists earned state qualification, joined by three ensembles: Clarinet Quartet, Flute Choir, and Trombone Choir.

The UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest will take place May 23-25 at Hays High School.

Soloists

Erin Clarke, Flute
Abigail Jang, Clarinet
Johns Kurian, Clarinet
Nathaniel Wrana, Clarinet
Micaiah Ternes, Alto

Sax
Carson Bone, Bari Sax
Donald Bush, Trumpet
Ian Jensen, Trumpet
Ethan Leone, Trumpet
James Sowrey, Trumpet
Callum Martin, Trombone
Jacob Zara, Euphonium
Iris Lucas, Tuba
Kaleb Oliphant, Tuba
Luke Pacelli, Tuba
Ensembles
Clarinet Quartet:

Abigail Jang, Johns Kurian, Maddison Reigoux, Addison Waller

Flute Choir: Erin Clarke, Juliana Cowsar, Rosie De La Cerda, Bella Hajari, Jacob Parmeson, Elizabeth Vest, Eliot Wells, Robert West

Trombone Choir: Blake Bassford, Robert Burns, Griffin Fushille, Cameron Greene, Callum Martin, Gabriella Mulder, Reagan Nolan, Jackson Williams

SALE FROM PG. 1

Buda, TX, 78610.

There is also an option to shop online in the week leading up to the plant sale, March 15-21, and then to pick up orders at the in-person event on March 22.

The online sale can be found at <http://haysgardener.square.site>.

Through HCMGA’s plant and tree sale, customers can find plants specifically propagated for the environment of Hays County, which may lead to greater growing success. People will also have an opportunity to “Ask a Gardener” for recommendations or advice..

Proceeds from the sale fund Master Gardener continuing education programs and community train-

ing classes for anyone interested in learning more about gardening

and landscaping. For more information about HCMGA,

visit www.hayscountymastergardeners.org.

Thank you for your continued support

Dripping Springs!

Vote for us!



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& 12th 11-6

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heavenpathwaysearch.com • \$10 entry, \$5 ages 1-5



Dripping Springs CLASSIFIEDS

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For Rent

Public Notice

Public Notice

AVAILABLE MARCH/APRIL
Newly Remodeled 2 Bed 2 Bath with small yard & porch quad on Deerfield Dr. Woodcreek water pd, w/d included, full kitchen. One year min. lease. \$1600 w/ \$1200 deposit. Pet Deposit Nego. Be a great tenant and apply 512-858-9999 850-855-5438

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A MIXED BEVERAGE PERMIT BY ALL WE KNEAD, LLC DBA HOWDY, NEIGHBOR LOCATED AT 13904 RANCH ROAD 12, STE 2, WIMBERLEY, HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS 78676. MICHAEL CREECY AND MORGAN MEKULY – MANAGERS.



TEACHERS ARE Heroes

Math comes alive at Science Mill over spring break, March 11-21

Staff Reports

The Science Mill in Johnson City is hosting Math Universe, a 10-day Spring Break immersive, hands-on experience March 11-21. “From spirals in nature to the mysteries of time and space, Math Universe transforms big ideas into unforgettable adventures for curious minds of all ages,” said a spokesperson. “Math isn’t something you memorize here — it’s something you experience.” Math Universe explores:
-The Golden Ratio in art, architecture, and nature
-Fractals and spirals hidden in snowflakes, pinecones, and galaxies
-The power of Pascal’s Triangle and probability
-How gravity bends space-time



Two students check out an exhibit at the Science Mill.

-What it means to travel at the speed of light
Using interactive stations, guests will:
-Construct spiral galaxies
-Race through time in a relativity challenge
-Create fractal snowflakes
-Build geometric patterns inspired by nature

-Test reflexes against the speed of light
A Special Activity, Pi Day, happens on Saturday, March 14, 2026. This town-wide math adventure is a full day of hands-on activities inspired by Pi, including patterns and the hidden math behind everyday life. It is made possible through the

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

support of the Simons Foundation. All 50+ regular exhibits will be open, covering light, robotics, fossils, life science, chemistry, physics, water, plants, energy, programming, and more. Tickets, details, and daily activity schedule are available at www.sciencemill.org.

Blood donations needed following mass shooting in Austin

Staff Reports

The regional non-profit blood center We Are Blood has made is calling for community blood donations following the mass shooting in Austin this weekend. “Our hearts are with those affected by the tragic shooting this weekend in downtown Austin,” said Marian Garrard, CEO at We Are Blood. “As our community mourns and processes, we will also pull together; right now, that means donating blood. Every donation can make a difference for a victim fighting to recover and for all local patients we serve.” Blood transfusions are critically important for ensuring We Are Blood’s hospital partners can treat those injured in the

attack, and the need for O positive and O negative donations is immediate. Over 150 blood products have been shared with local hospitals in response to this weekend’s events. “In the wake of this devastating tragedy, Austin Police, Austin Fire, and Austin-Travis County EMS are urging our community members to donate blood,” said Austin-Travis County EMS Captain Shannon Koesterer. “We are reminded every day of how fragile and precious life is. Today, we call on our community to assist if they can in replenishing this valuable resource.” Community members are encouraged to book an appointment as soon as possible at weareblood.org/donor.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Landscaping Services O’Kane Lawn & Landscape “Justin’s roots in our community” Time for Fall & Winter Tree Trimming • Tree Trimming • Irrigation Repair • Landscaping • Fertilizing • Lawn Maintenance LI 00021868 FREE ESTIMATES FULLY INSURED 512.738.2185 okanelawnscapes@gmail.com member Ben O’Kane Owner/Operator	Landscaping Services Ogden’s Tree Service • Consult • Prune • Remove • Fertilize • Selective Land Clearing • Insured ISA Certified Arborist TX0111 Texas Master Naturalist Jon Ogden, 512.452.3987	Windows & Painting KLEEN WINDOWS “Windows are a pain, so call the professionals” (512-554-1401) Pressure Washing • Exterior Painting Deck Restoration www.kleenwindows99.com VISA FREE ESTIMATES	Windows & Painting Hill Country Painting (512-554-1401) Pressure Washing • Exterior Painting Deck Restoration www.kleenwindows99.com VISA FREE ESTIMATES	Painting Services Texas Painting Unlimited LLC Painting the Texas Hill Country for Over 40 Years. Our services include... -Inpaint -Ex-paint -Drywall -Carpentry -Power washing -Deck, door, and cabinet restoration Serving Wimberley & Surrounding areas Free Estimates! CALL (512-557-4371) NOW Texaspaintingunlimited.com
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New Clubs, New Creative Connections

Steve Friedman

So many of us are seeking our tribe - people we have things in common with around town.

I believe that is why the Art League's Clubs have become so popular. It's a great way to meet fellow artists, socialize, learn new techniques, and collaborate on projects and markets if you'd like.

Furthermore, our Clubs are free to members and non-members are welcome to attend their first meeting for free as well. DSAL funds our Clubs, so many provide equipment and supplies for those expanding their artistic journey.

I'm thrilled to announce five new Clubs have formed, fully embracing the broad definition of art here in Dripping. Come check any (or all) of them out!

Drawing Club
Nearly every art form begins with drawing. As adults, drawing reconnects us to childhood curiosity and intuitive doodling — but it is also far more than that. Drawing builds foundational skills in composition, perspective, value, depth, and texture.

Our Drawing Club meets monthly to share techniques, experiment with materials, and simply draw together in community. While drawing is often the starting point for other art forms, it also stands beautifully on its own, producing powerful and awe-inspiring finished works.

Woodworking Club
Many of us took “shop” classes in our youth. Some of our members have continued developing their craftsmanship and now boast full woodworking shops, while others are simply curious — eager to reconnect with their hands, turn a bowl on a lathe, or build a table from scratch.

The Woodworking Club is already off and running with casual socials, shop visits, tours of a local mill, and shared space at our Art Market in the Triangle. It's a club rooted in creativity, craftsmanship, and community.

Photography Club
With today's advanced smartphone cameras, we can all capture impressive images. But photography is far more than technology — it's about seeing. Photographers freeze fleeting moments, frame emotion, and help us experience the world in new ways.

The Photography Club meets monthly to share camera techniques and editing tips, offer thoughtful critiques, host Hill Country photo outings, and showcase their work throughout the community.



Image by Sumiko Courtney



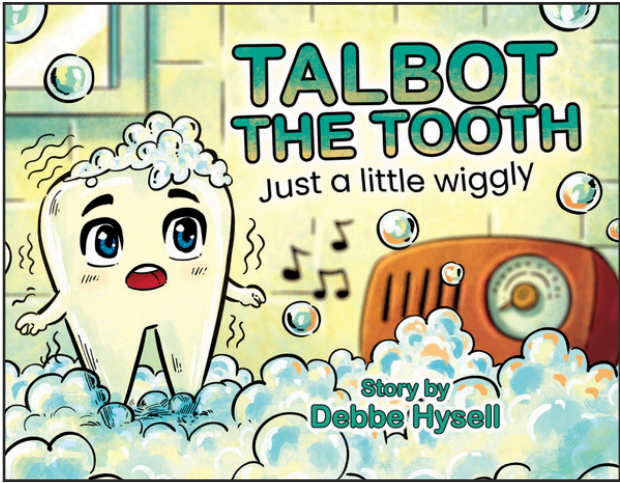
Tree image by Darrell Carder



Sunset image by Jamie Wurtz



Drawing by Melinda Springer



Book by Debbe Hysell



Woodwork by William Wigfield

to share camera techniques and editing tips, offer thoughtful critiques, host Hill Country photo outings, and showcase their work throughout the community.

Writing Club
Our Writing Club meets monthly at the Dripping Springs Community Library in partnership with the library team. Writing is one of the most expressive art forms — capturing moments, memories, and meaning — often offering a therapeutic outlet for both author and reader alike.

Meetings include social time, constructive critique, guest speakers, and discussions on writing craft, publishing pathways, and marketing strategies. Whether you are just beginning or already published, the Writing Club offers support, inspiration, and community.

Music Club
Our newest addition, the Music Club, is gathering musicians and music lovers alike. Members explore new instruments, analyze songs and technique, enjoy local performances, and play together.

Like all art forms, music has the power to transport us. Whether you find joy in Classic Rock, stretch into Jazz or Classical, move to Hip Hop or Bluegrass, or compose your own songs, the Music Club welcomes you into the rhythm of creativity.

Most clubs meet monthly. Learn more about these five and all of our 18 clubs on our Club Hub at

<https://artindripping.com/member-clubs/>.

Acrylics Alcohol Ink Ceramics Day Trippers Drawing Fiber Arts Glass Magazine Collage Metal & Sculpture Mixed Media Murals Oil Photography Plein Air Watercolor Woodworking Woo Woo Writing

Our Clubs will be featured at the ‘Night to Inspire: Color Our World’ immersive art experience at Dripping Springs Ranch Park on April 16 at 6 p.m.

The evening will include:

- An amazing array of local art, live paintings, art demonstrations
- Five scrumptious tapas courses presented by Austin's Chef Keii (as seen on the Food Network)
- Drink tickets at our Bell Springs Wine Bar & Lounge
- A live DJ, fun Photo Booth, and more!

Get your tickets today at <https://artindripping.com/2026nighttoinspiretickets/>

The evening is poised to be the largest art event of the year in Dripping! We hope you will join us!



Week at a Glance

Week of: March 9th-14th

MONDAY	• Gentle Yoga: Balance & Light Strength 10:00 AM • T'ai Chi Chih: Joy Thru Movement Beginning Series 11:00 AM • Dungeons and Dragons (Home-School) 3:15 PM • First Chapter Book Club 4:00 PM
TUESDAY	• Mah-jongg 1:00 PM • D&D - MS 4:45-6:00 PM • Chess Group - all ages 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM 
WEDNESDAY	• Toddler Storytime w/ Ms. Olivia 9:30 - 10:15 AM • The Reading Crew - Bluebonnet Edition 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM • Mahjong Open Play at Deep Eddy 5:00 PM • Local Voices: Author Spotlight Series with Pat Gibson 5:45 PM
THURSDAY	• Homeschool Lego Club 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM • Bilingual Book Club: 4:45 - 5:45 PM • Adult Art Studio with DSAL with Jennifer Friedman 12:30 PM • Charlotte's Book Club 6:00 PM 
FRIDAY	• Discovery and Dance Storytime 9:30 - 10:15 AM • Mah Jongg for Beginners and Intermediate Players 1:00 PM 
SATURDAY	• Kick Off  Bible 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM • Mad Science Show 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM • Sanctuary Sketch Club 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM • Read with Ruby the Therapy Dog 10:30 AM

RECURRING PROGRAMS

- Chair Yoga every other Mondays at 9:00 AM
- Mah - Jongg every Tuesday 
- Mah - Jongg for Beginners every other Friday
- Toddler Storytime every Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:30 AM 
- Baby Storytime at 10:30 AM every Thursday
- Master Gardeners on the Porch every Thursday from 3:00 - 6:00 pm.
- Read with Ruby the Therapy Dog on Saturdays at 10:30 AM

Register Now at DSCL.ORG

OBITUARIES

ART FROM PG. 1

Elizabeth “Betty” Ann Paulich Roe

March 22, 1938 — 2/26/2026



Elizabeth “Betty” Ann Paulich Roe

Elizabeth “Betty” Ann Paulich Roe was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. She filled all these roles with a grace and warmth that made her simply an extraordinary woman. Her life was centered around family, faith, and friendship, and she offered everyone fortunate enough to know her a beautiful example of a life well lived.

Born in 1938 in Iron Mountain, Michigan, Betty was the daughter of Sylvester and Doris (Strong) Paulich. She grew up in the small northern Wisconsin town of Niagara, surrounded by a close-knit community and her four younger brothers—Bradden, Frank, Earl, and Patrick—whom she adored. Two older brothers were born sleeping, a loss her family always carried quietly.

After graduating from high school, Betty bravely set out for Chicago to live with her Aunt Ethel and Uncle George. She worked as a bank teller for a year, saving every dollar to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. She went on to attend St. Mary’s Nursing School in Milwaukee, graduating in 1960.

A chance outing to Bradford Beach with her nursing school friends changed her life forever. There she met a handsome, self-described “beach bum,” Robert (Bob) Roe, who was studying at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. After several intentionally timed “coincidental” visits to the beach, the two finally spoke—and quickly realized they had found the person they wanted to build a life with. They were married on October 15, 1960, in Betty’s hometown of Niagara, surrounded by family and friends.

Betty and Bob built their life together in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, with a two-year adventure in Canada before eventually settling in Allen, Texas, in 1982. They raised five children—Dawn, Jean,

Marci, Renee, and Rob—and later became proud grandparents to Alec and Katie Berry and Noel Roe. The arrival of grandchildren brought Betty and Bob to Dripping Springs, Texas, in 1998, where they spent their final chapter together. Throughout all the moves and milestones, Betty created a home filled with love, laughter, and countless cherished memories. She made holidays magical, directed Halloween plays for the neighborhood inspired by her oldest daughter’s love of acting, planned family vacations and road trips to Disney World, and ensured there was a home-cooked meal on the table every night with the whole family gathered around. She was intelligent, kind, creative, artistic, and athletic, and she nurtured those qualities in her children and in everyone around her.

Betty worked as a pediatric nurse and caregiver at various points in her life. She was a 35-year breast cancer survivor and a longtime Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure participant and winner, a quick walker and a zumba enthusiast. Her deep Catholic faith guided her throughout her life, and she served her church communities faithfully, including visiting nursing homes and offering communion services to residents for many years.

Betty passed away on February 26th, with two of her daughters at her side and surrounded by the love of her family in the days before her passing. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bob, in May 2024, her son-in-law Spencer Berry in 2011, her youngest granddaughter, Noel Roe in 2006, as well as cherished family members. She is survived by her brother, Earl Paulich; her children, Dawn Roe, Jean Roe, Marci Roe, Renee Roe-Berry, and Rob Roe; her grandchildren, Alec (Laurie) Berry and Katie Berry; and many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly. She simply made the world a better place and will be greatly missed.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 7th at 10:00 am at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Dripping Springs, Texas. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Volunteer Healthcare Clinic (www.volclinic.org) or Bluebonnet Hospice in Wimberley, Texas.

binning her art with her photos.

“I just started overlaying other pieces of images that I own on top of each other,” Austin said.

She uses a variety of editing techniques, and she also makes her own frames.

“I try to carry the themes out so that people are not just buying art. They’re buying part of me,” Austin said.

Another stop on the tour was The Shops at Mars Beads, which is located in Oakwood Plaza, on RR 12 just south of 290. Owner Carolyn Roach said she started the store in Mars, Pennsylvania almost 20 years ago, and brought it with her when she moved to Texas 14 years ago.

She’s been in Dripping Springs for about seven years now, and has added two shops to the business - Fourth Rock Records and Two Moons Art Gallery - which are both also Mars-related names. They used to be on 290, but relocated last year and now are located a little off the beaten path - which may be fitting.

“We just like the unusual here,” Roach

said. “And we try to support local artists and musicians through our shops, which we feel is important for the community.”

Roach, who is an expert beader, enjoys teaching classes at the shop as well.

“I love working with different artists because I feel like you can learn a new skill from somebody else, and I love to share,” Roach said.

At least once a month, the Shops at Mars Bead also have live music performances, and like the store, the offerings are full of variety.

“Last weekend we had Irish folk music, and the time before that, I had a country guy with a stand up bass,” Roach said. “I’ve had a band from the high school - Black Cat Crossing - that was playing Jimi Hendrix. And I have the Dream Miners, who play post punk kind of stuff. So it’s all over the place.”

DSAL has already set the date for next year’s West of Weird Art Tour. It will be held February 27-28, 2027. For more information on DSAL or its other art events, visit www.artindripping.com.



Sheetal Kulkarni shows her pottery at her studio on Nutty Brown Road.

PHOTOS BY DAVE WILSON



Jennifer Swannack works on her art outside the Tiny Camper Art Gallery during the West of Weird Art Tour.



Artist Lorrie Anson stands by some of her art on display in Primal Gallery.

DSISD FROM PG. 1

about it. We don’t want kids to feel that kind of pressure.”

Thomas said the school board should protect students’ education by not taking away more time from their educational minutes, and protect their right to belong without being made to feel different because of their faith or lack thereof.

“Let the parents and faith communities they choose continue to be the primary teachers of their children when it comes to faith, and respect those who don’t subscribe to a particular faith, but teach that ethical behavior at home,” Thomas said. “Honestly, some of the kindest people I know don’t belong to a church.”

Tori Haltom, a parent of DISD students, also asked that the school board respect her family’s religious freedom.

“In light of the continued federal and state aggressions on religious freedom and public education, I’m asking you all to maintain a clear separation of church and state,” Haltom said. “Senate Bill 11 and similar measures are an outright infringement on my rights and those of my family.”

Haltom said she provides at-home, age-appropriate information to her kids regarding religions around the world, and teaches her children how to be respectful of the beliefs of loved ones and neighbors.

Another speaker weighing in on the issue was Mary Fox, who

identified herself as a recently retired school principal and candidate for House district 73. She also urged the board to reject the option to require schools to implement a dedicated time for religious practices.

“Students already have the opportunity to pray and reflect during the moment of silence each day,” Fox said. “Students and staff may pray, reflect, and read religious materials throughout the school day already, as long as they don’t interrupt instruction or coerce others to participate.”

Fox said that students and district employees can also pray or read religious texts before and after school, during lunch, and when classwork or tests are completed.

Kelly Metzger, parent of a Dripping Springs senior, also spoke against SB 11.

“Our students have rights under our constitution. The right to practice a religion or no religion includes all people, not just citizens, not just grown-ups,” Metzger said. “Trustees on this board, hopefully in their wisdom, will maintain the rights of all the parents in the district who want to guide their children’s religious upbringing as they see fit.”

The last public speaker was parent Natalie Kemp, who also urged the trustees to vote no on establishing a formal period of prayer and reading of religious texts for district employees and

students.

“These rights already exist and are protected under current law,” Kemp said. “Creating an official district sanctioned prayer period does not expand religious freedom. It simply creates new administrative responsibility and legal risk for our district.”

Metzger also said the policy also risks creating division among both staff and students, between those who participate and those who do not.

“Public schools should be environments where all individuals, regardless of religious belief or non-belief, feel equally respected, safe, and included,” Kemp said.

After the public comments, the trustees continued through their agenda, and then adjourned to a closed session, as permitted by Texas legislative code, to address several agenda items. Upon their return, they addressed the issue of SB 11.

“We just came out of our closed session conversation around this, a consultation with our attorney,” trustee Rob McClellan said. “Obviously, lots to be considered here.”

McClellan said that prior to a motion, he wanted to review the points that were included in Resolution 2026-10.

“The motion we’re about to hear is going to essentially decline to adopt a policy requiring every campus of the district to provide a period of prayer and reading of religious

texts for students and employees,” McClellan said. “That being said, the board acknowledges and respects the rights of students and employees to engage in religious expression, prayer, and reading of religious texts at school, as enshrined in the United States Constitution.”

The resolution also affirmed that a public school student has the absolute right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt the instructional or other activities of the school.

“Lastly, the board directs the superintendent to continue to take efforts to protect the ability for our students and employees to exercise these rights without discrimination or retaliation,” McClellan said.

With that, McClellan turned it over to trustee Kim Cousins.

“I move to approve Resolution 2026-10, finding that it is in the best interest of the district to decline to adopt a policy requiring every campus to provide time for prayer and reading of religious texts,” Cousins said.

The motion was seconded by Mary Jean Hetrick, and passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Other nearby districts that have so far declined to implement SB 11 include Wimberley ISD, Hays ISD, Lake Travis ISD, Lockhart ISD, Bastrop ISD, San Marcos CISD and Blanco ISD.

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pet of the week



XO • Male
11 years old
Terrier mix

Everyone says I'm a very sweet guy. My heart is full of love, and I'm a super happy pup. My black coat and clipped ears might make me look tough, but I'm a total softie. I really like being around people and I love hanging out with smaller dogs too. I'm a quiet guy, hardly ever barking. Zooming around the backyard is my favorite way to burn energy. I'm house trained, crate trained, and I've got an awesome recall and sit. I'm just an all-around awesome dog. I'd love a home where I'm the only pup or with one or two small dogs. When you meet me, I'll make you smile with my sweetness. I'm searching for a wonderful foster or a forever family. Please visit LizzysHospice.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



Cowboy • Male
2.5 years old
Great Dane mix

I'm Cowboy, and yeah, I'm a pretty cool guy if I may say so myself! I'm a playful pup who loves zooming around the yard with other dogs, chasing and having a blast. Even though I'm big, I'm not into roughhousing. I prefer to play in a more fun way that doesn't involve wrestling. I love going for walks, and heading out to the park is one of my all-time favorites. I'm crate trained, house trained, and super quiet, just happy to chill with my people. Car rides? I'm a pro, sitting calmly and soaking in the view through the window. Cats? Haven't met one yet, but I bet we could be buddies. I hope I can find a human best friend forever to hang out with, go on adventures, and just have a good time. A fabulous foster home or a fantastic forever family would make my tail wag like crazy. Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

3-1 Themeless Sunday 174 by Rafael Musa and Amie Walker

ACROSS

- 1 "Oh, joy"
6 "Titanic" character who says, "I put the diamond in the coat. And I put the coat on her!"
9 Tug-of-war need
13 Cage part, perhaps?
15 Deck with swords and pentacles
16 Creamy appetizer sometimes served with crostini
17 Cookies in some crusts
18 IRS form digits
19 Taylor Swift song with a 10-minute version
21 Actress Taylor-Joy

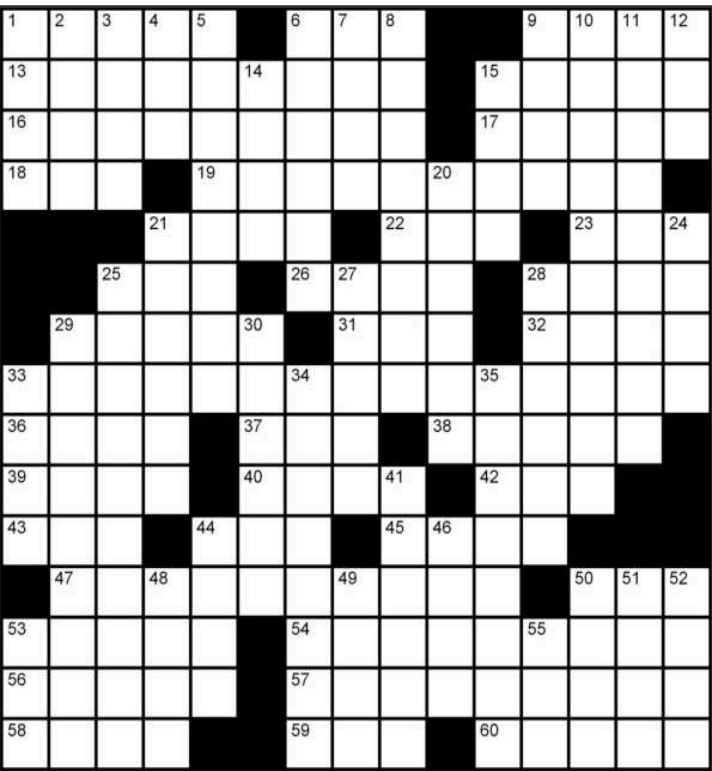
- 22 Good beach day forecast
23 Drain
25 Get ____ of (unload)
26 Root vegetable used in some natural Easter egg dyes
28 "Wish you ____ here!"
29 Preserves in brine
31 Cell service letters
32 Female sheep
33 "What a predictable comment"
36 Forearm bone
37 Nickname found in "homeroetic"
38 Swedish poet Tranströmer
39 Piece of contact

- info, casually
40 Car sticker abbr.
42 Grasped
43 Negative conjunction
44 All-Star baseball player ____ Wee Reese
45 "Now!"
47 Energy bar?
50 Chimpanzee, for one
53 Grill brand
54 Vehicle stored underneath Wayne Manor
56 Confident way to solve a print crossword
57 "It's my bad"
58 " ____ it ironic?"
59 HS diploma al-



- ternative
60 **Foe DOWN**
1 Sierras and Terrains, e.g.
2 ____ and aahs
3 Pizzeria sight
4 Run out of juice
5 "Well ... kind of"
6 Work together on a song, informally
7 Often
8 They're built brick by brick
9 Uncommon
10 "And if I don't?"
11 Splash zones
12 Sci-fi invaders
14 Depend (on)
15 The ____ (nickname for Oakland)
20 Consume more hot dogs than, say
21 The "A" of the ABCs of CPR
24 Gnat, e.g.
25 Tournament where every team plays every other team
27 Mormon leader

- 28 Tool for cleaning a grimy floor
29 First scenes of "SNL" episodes, often
30 Christmastime in the Southern Hemisphere
33 Currency in Chongqing
34 Gets trounced, e.g.
41 Created a path through, as the Red Sea
44 Benefit
46 The ____ (Second Life competitor)
48 Departed
49 Not wild
50 Senator's staffer
51 Professor ____
52 Like a napping cat, in internet slang
53 GameCube successor
55 Tennis star
Shelton



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CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

kids in our community. For details, visit www.hcrally.com.
Hog Heaven Sporting Club
• 24905 Ranch Rd 12 •
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Wedding Capital of Texas Winter Showcase
Mar 8 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dripping Springs - The Wedding Capital of Texas® - is hosting a wedding showcase to help couples connect with a wide range of local wedding professionals ready to help bring their vision to life. The event takes place at Patriot's Hall Events Venue and offers a relaxed, in-person opportunity to explore beautiful ideas, meet talented local pros, take part in venue tours, and gather inspiration for weddings, vow renewals, and celebrations of all kinds. The event is free to attend, with RSVP requested in advance. Patriots Hall • 231 Patriots Hall Blvd • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Bell Springs Garden Party
Mar 8 • 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Come celebrate Spring at

Bell Springs Winery, with live music, food from Chef Mike, and a blind wine tasting. Tickets not required for entry, but must be purchased for the tasting and food specials. Cost is \$5 per member, \$10 for the general public. This is an all-ages-friendly and dog-friendly party. Includes kid crafts for flower arranging and making bird feeders led by Guidepost Montessori from 1-4 p.m. and face painting from 2-4 p.m. Bell Springs Winery • 3700 Bell Springs Rd • Dripping Springs, TX 786720

Dripping Springs Farmers Market
Mar 11 & 18 • 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
The Dripping Springs Farmer's Market is held on Wednesdays at Dripping Springs Ranch Park. Visitors can gather and shop for fresh agricultural and related products. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Family Campout - Dripping Springs Ranch Park
Mar 13-14 • 4 p.m. to

10 a.m.
Join us for a Dripping Springs Family Campout at Ranch Park! You'll pitch your tent, eat some grub around the campfire, and learn about the cosmos from our local guide before cozying up with your family for a night outdoors. Eat breakfast with the crew, and then enjoy a morning hike with a local interpreter. All ages welcome. Registration required. Cost is \$25 for a family of 4. Additional family members are \$5 each. Ranch House at Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

Dripping Springs Community Library
The Dripping Springs Community Library hosts multiple events every week. Events include Toddler Story Time, Homeschool Chess Club, Legos @ the Library, Mah-Jongg, Master Gardeners on the Porch, Yoga and more. For library events, visit dscl.org/event-calendar.

City of Dripping Springs Public Meetings
The City of Dripping Springs welcomes residents and others doing business with the city to attend any of the public meetings below. City Council meetings are traditionally held at City Hall Council Chambers, 511 W. Mercer St., Dripping Springs, TX 78620. See cityofdrippingsprings.com for streaming options and meeting agendas.

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
Mar 5 • 4 p.m.

TIRZ No. 1 & No. 2 Board Regular Meeting
Mar 9 • 4 p.m.

Founders Day Committee Regular Meeting
Mar 9 • 6:30 p.m.

DSRP Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Mar 11 • 11 a.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Mar 11 • 6 p.m.

Utility Commission Regular Meeting
Mar 12 • 4 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting
Mar 17 • 6 p.m.

Hays County Commissioners Court Regular Meeting
Mar 10 • 9 a.m.
This is a regular meeting of the Hays County Commissioners Court, the governing body of the county. This group of elected officials and staff oversees the functions and budget for all county-related business. Hays County Historic Courthouse • 111 E. San Antonio St. • San Marcos, Texas. Streaming option available at hayscountytx.com.

Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
Mar 30 • 6 p.m.
Live meeting of the DSISD Board of Trustees which sets policy, agenda and strategic planning for the Dripping Springs school district. Agendas and live streaming option available at dsisdtx.us. Live meeting at the Center for Learning & Leadership • 300 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

